

FROM THE SOCIETY

The 2012 SGIM Member Survey Results: Part I

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In 2011, the SGIM Membership Committee developed a survey to get information and feedback about SGIM from the entire membership. On February 14, 2012, a link to the survey was sent by e-mail to all SGIM members. The link was sent weekly, for a total of six e-mails, up until the closure of the survey on March 22, 2012. Since then, the Membership Committee has analyzed the results and is pleased to present this summary. Whenever possible, we compared the results from the 2012 survey to the 2004 and 2009 membership surveys.

In total, 3,075 people received the survey link. There were 1,043 respondents (response rate 34% vs. 50% for the 2004 survey). The survey consisted of 33 questions covering many issues, including participant demographics, satisfaction with current job, SGIM's role, critical activities that SGIM should be performing, use of organizational services, membership, finances, and overall satisfaction. Of the 33 questions, 27 were multiple choice, and the remainder were partially or completely open ended.

Composition of the Survey Respondents

The composition of survey respondents showed differences from the composition of the SGIM membership. The overall membership is 48% female (respondents 52%). The modal age range for the overall membership is 35-44 (same as respondents). Full members were over-represented among respondents (85% of respondents vs. 77% of SGIM members). Lastly, the Mid Atlantic, Midwest, Southern, and New England regions were all mod-

estly under-represented among survey respondents compared to all SGIM members.

Selected demographic results for 2012 include:

- Gender: 52% female (vs. 47% in 2008 and 45% in 2004)
- Racial/ethnic designations (compared to the 2004 survey):
 - 17% Asian (vs. 15%)
 - 5% African American (vs. 4%)
 - 4% Latino/Hispanic (vs. 4%)
- Academic rank: 32% assistant professor (39% in 2004) and 43% associate or full professor (36% in 2004).

Profile of Current Job Position

Overall, the job satisfaction of SGIM members appears to be higher than it was in 2004. A significant number of SGIM members self-identify as hospitalists. Results for 2012 include:

- The three highest levels of job satisfaction (8, 9, or 10) were selected by 64% of respondents (51% in the 2004 survey).
- The three lowest levels of job satisfaction (1, 2, or 3) were selected by 4% of respondents (2% in the 2004 survey)
- 87% reported working full time (89% in 2004).
- 15% identified themselves as hospitalists. This question was not asked in the 2004 survey.

Satisfaction with SGIM

In 2012, the value of SGIM membership was rated as essential by 17%, very valuable by 38%, and valuable by 41% (total 96%) compared to 21%, 37%, and 35% (total 93%), respectively, in 2004.

- 27% reported seriously considering not renewing their membership in the past three years (22% in 2004).
- The two most common reasons for considering membership cancellation were "benefits and services do not justify expense" (54%) and "consider another society to be my professional home" (29%).

How SGIM Can Better Serve its Members

The 2012 survey asked recipients to rate the amount of emphasis SGIM puts on several activities. The areas in which more than 25% of respondents reported "not enough emphasis" are:

- Developing my skills as a leader: 38%
- Developing my skills as an administrator: 40%
- Enhancing public recognition and understanding of GIM: 42%
- Providing on-line resources for educators: 37%
- Providing on-line resources for researchers: 30%
- Fostering the sharing of clinical innovations across institutions: 28%
- Conducting a national meeting where one can learn about advancements in clinical medicine: 26%

The 2012 survey asked recipients to rate the acceptability of options to generate revenue for SGIM:

- Most acceptable: loosen restrictions on external support
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(33%), increase registration fees for national meetings (31%), and increase annual dues (29%)

- Least acceptable: cut services rather than increase fees (48%), increase annual dues (44%), and loosen restrictions on external support (43%)

Next Steps

At this time, the Membership Committee is engaged in further analysis of the multiple-choice questions and is processing the several hundred responses to the open-ended questions. Once this is completed, the Committee will make recommenda-

tions to SGIM leadership about how to best address the results of the survey. A deidentified dataset of all survey responses will be available to SGIM members. Please send questions, comments, or suggestions to Chris Wojcik (wojcikc@sgim.org).

SGIM